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SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1861, STATED MEETING.

JAMES HENTHORN TODD, D.D., President, in the Chair.

The SECRETARY of the Council read the following Report of the Council for the year ending March 16, 1861 :—

REPORT.

SINCE the date of the last Annual Report, the first part of Volume xxiv. of our Transactions has been issued and delivered to the Members of the Academy. It contains the following papers :—

1. Dr. Lloyd, "On the Light reflected and transmitted by thin Plates."

2. Mr. Donovan, "On a new Sun-dial"

3. Mr. G. J. Stoney, "On Rings seen in fibrous specimens of Calc Spar."

4. Mr. G. J. Stoney, "On the Propagation of Waves."

No papers on Polite Literature or Antiquities have been printed in the Transactions within the year.

Many interesting communications have been brought before the Academy, of which abstracts have appeared in the Proceedings.

In Mathematics we have had papers from Sir William R. Hamilton, Mr. Carmichael, Mr. Stoney, and Professor Hennessy. In the Sciences of Observation and Experiment from Professor Jellett, Mr. Stoney, Mr. Mallett, Captain Blakeley, Dr. Hart, Professor Galbraith, Professor Haughton, Dr. Robert M'Donnell, and Mr. David Moore.

In Polite Literature and Antiquities, from the President, Dr. Reeves, Mr. Charles M'Donnell, Dr. Wilde, Mr. Du Noyer, and Mr. Huband Smith.

We have again to express our obligations to Mr. Wilde for his valuable services in the preparation of the Catalogue of our Museum. The second part of the work has been published within the year. It contains descriptions of all the articles in the Museum which are composed of Animal Materials, and of Copper or Bronze. It forms an octavo volume of 396 pages, and is illustrated with 377 engravings. A third part has yet to be added, to complete the Catalogue of that portion of the Museum which Mr. Wilde originally undertook to describe. In it will be comprised the articles of gold, silver, and iron; and those included under the head of "finds." Mr. Wilde reports that it will consist of about eight sheets, or 130 pages. Ninety-three engravings for this third part have already been made and paid for.

The sale of the Catalogue appears to have been considerable. Since the 1st of April, 1860, 36 copies of Part I., and 102 copies of Part II. have been sold from the Academy's office, to which numbers must, of course, be added those which have been disposed of through the publishers.

The Treasury having at length acceded to the application made by us, six proper cases have been supplied for the display, as well as safe-keeping, of the gold ornaments in our Museum.

A series of casts, 40 in number, illustrative of primeval art, and throwing much light on Irish antiquities, has been procured by Mr. Wilde from the Museum of Mayence.

We are indebted to the Lord Lieutenant for a very valuable body of documents illustrative of our national history and topography, received within the past year. His Excellency, in consequence of a representation made to him by the President, placed himself in communication with the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for War; and by his influence obtained for the Academy a donation of 103 volumes of manuscript papers, containing much interesting information relative to the local history and antiquities of Ireland, collected during the progress of the Ordnance Survey under the superintendence of Major-General Sir Thomas Larcom. There were at the same time presented 11 volumes of sketches of various objects of antiquarian interest. We believe Her Majesty's Government have followed an enlightened policy in depositing these documents in the Library of this Academy, where they will be associated with other collections of a kindred nature, and will be always easily accessible for purposes of historical and antiquarian research.

We have also to acknowledge a liberal donation given by the Rev. John H. Jellett, to further the objects of the Academy. The Rev. Samuel Haughton has been for some time occupied with researches concerning the Analysis of Irish Granites; and Mr. Jellett has placed at his disposal the sum of £40 towards the necessary expenses of these researches. One-half of this amount has been already expended by Mr. Haughton on his investigations, and the results obtained have been printed in our Transactions. The further analyses now in progress will also, when completed, be laid before the Academy.

The Treasurer informs us that the finances of the Academy are in a satisfactory condition. All bills have been paid, and a balance of upwards of £100 will be carried to the credit of the Academy in the year now about to commence.

The Academy, by a resolution of January 28th, directed the Council to prepare a historical account of the Cunningham Fund, from its origin to the present time, including a list of the persons to whom prizes or medals have been awarded from the Fund; and a statement of the nature of the researches for which such prizes and medals were adjudged. The Academy also requested the Council to make such suggestions as they should think proper, with respect to the mode in which the proceeds of the Fund should, for the future, be disposed of. We have drawn up a statement respecting the history of the Fund, which will be brought before the Academy in the form of an Appendix to the present Report. The question of the best mode of disposing of the Fund for the future we have not had time to examine as carefully as its importance deserves; and we recommend that it be referred to the new Council for their mature consideration.

It will be remembered that, in the last Annual Report, the attention of the Academy was called to a subject on which the President

had already dwelt in his Inaugural Address, namely, the confused and uncertain state of the Laws of the Academy, and the necessity of a systematic revision and consolidation of the entire body of our Statutes. We recommended that power should be given to the Council to prepare a Digest of the Charter, Statutes, and By-Laws, not altering their substance in any respect, and modifying the language only so far as might be necessary for the sake of clearness and connexion. The Academy having entrusted us with these powers, we proceeded to prepare such a Digest. A draft of a new edition of the Statutes, drawn up by the President, was laid before us; we have carefully examined and corrected it; and we now submit it to the Academy, and recommend that it be adopted as representing correctly the present state of the Laws and Regulations by which the Academy is governed. Any changes in our Laws, which may from time to time be thought expedient, can without difficulty be introduced into their proper places in the Digest.

We regret that the increasing infirmity of age renders it impossible for the Rev. Dr. Drummond, now for so long a period our Librarian, to retain that office. In retiring from the Council, of which he has been a member for forty years, he carries with him the sincere respect and esteem of his colleagues, and, we believe we can truly add, of every Member of the Academy.

Fourteen Members have been elected within the past year:—

1. John G. Adair, Esq.
2. Charles A. Cameron, M. D.
3. Rev. James Graves, A. M.
4. George Meyler, Esq.
5. Viscount Monck.
6. Henry Cusack, Esq.
7. Richard H. Frith, Esq., C. E.
8. Rawdon M'Namara, M. D.
9. Alexander Mac Ilveen, Esq.
10. James Moore, M. D.
11. Right Hon. Sir Thomas Wyse, K. C. B.
12. James F. Duncan, M. D.
13. Wyville Thompson, LL. D.
14. David Walker, M. D.

No Honorary Members have been elected.

The Academy has lost, by death, during the past year, six Members:—

Samson Carter, Esq., C. E., elected December 11, 1837.

Sir Henry Marsh, Bart., M. D., elected June 22, 1826.

John U. Owen, M. D., elected April 8, 1839

Ven. Charles Strong (Archdeacon of Glandelagh), elected June 25,

1819

Lord Rossmore, elected June 27, 1825.

And one Honorary Member,—Baron C. C. J. Bunsen.